1: Honigmann E-5 (1943-1945) 1949 ND12 Nahane ND12

generally narrow, cleared only enough to permit the transit of dogs and people traveling in single file. Winter trails are better cleared and cut wider, in order to accommodate loaded toboggans and people on snowshoes. Travelers in summer may follow part of a winter trail, but generally the latter are direct routes while in summer people must bypass lakes, sloughs, and the bends of rivers.

Both summer and winter trails are marked by blazed trees which, in a well wooded area, are spaced about a hundred feet apart. In addition, men who are hunting in an unfamiliar region may make temporary blazes to guide them on their return to camp or on a subsequent visit to a meat cache. Temporary blazing consists of breaking willow branches in the direction taken. Sometimes a forked stick is planted in soft ground and another thin pole laid in the fork to point direction. In early fall, a safe crossing on newly formed ice may be marked by three or four foot long poles stuck in the snow.

Trails usually follow the contour of a country. They never adhere to the meandering courses of rivers but always portage across points of land or, in winter, arms of water, in order to save distance. A trail usually ascends a ridge diagonally rather than proceeding straight up the face. In winter, the open face of such a diagonal ascent may be bulwarked with small black spruce trees laid lengthwise along the trail. Such a bulwark guards a toboggan from sliding down the otherwise open hillside. Spruce poles, roughly trimmed of brush, may also be extended from an ascent into the branches of trees growing below the trail. Such poles are placed about four feet apart and also serve to prevent a vehicle from overturning, should it slip from the ridge. Further protection is achieved by banking ascents with snow which is kicked from the overhanging slope with snowshoes.

Windfalls are removed from winter trails if they are small enough to cut with an ax and light enough to lift aside. Otherwise fallen timber may be axed in half and pushed down into the snow. When a heavy windfall blocks a trail, small sticks and snow are kicked up to make an embankment, on which the toboggan can pass over the osbtacle, or else the vehicle is lifted across the block. Winter trails are maintained by whoever uses them. A man making his first trip to the trap line in autumn will cut whatever overhanging branches and windfalls obstruct his passage. With the first snow he will bulwark ascents to ridges and cut more brush. Anyone else using the trail is free to benefit from these improvements.

In summer, trails cross small creeks by means of bridges constructed by felling from one to three trees, four or five inches in diameter, across the stream. These are trimmed of branches and moved close together. Bridges are also constructed by throwing down four or five saplings, two or three inches in diameter. Large rivers are crossed by rafts.

Many points along trails and rivers are designated by place names. Such identifications are freely coined and usually originate from some outstanding feature of the site or from some memorable event associated with that place. Thus a long ridge overlooking a wide stretch of country is called See the Country. A lake is known as Excited Lake, Old Man explained, because "People come there. They stay one night. They don't know how to go on, go back, or cross the mountain. Talking, talking; finally fighting [arguing] going on. They turn back." River Joe calls a slough below his winter settlement by the name of his daughter, who was born there in a temporary camp. An island in the Liard River is known as Natsitsi ("Long Face") Island. Natsitsi was one of Old Man's dogs. One year, as the family was

I: Honigmann E-5 (1943-1945) 1949 ND12 Nahane ND12

103 traveling home on the river, the dog began to bark when the boat approached this land. The vessel was brought close to shore and Nataitsi allowed to jump out. He promptly began to run down a bear which the men, following behind, were able to kill. Since then the island has been called by the dog's name. Many lakes are designated to refer to their stocks of fish; thus Jackfish Lake and the numerous Fish Lakes dotting the area.

482 *Land transportation.* Burdens are packed by men and women; animals, the dog and horse, 492 are used to carry goods; and the sleigh and toboggan are employed to move supplies. In [494] recent years people have begun to hire trucks for transportation along the Alaska Highway to a point from which they can reach the winter settlements by foot or boat. One Indian has purchased a used sedan and a number of other men spoke of purchasing half-ton pickups as soon as trucks became available. Pack sacks are manufactured by women from twelve ounce canvas. Each member of a family owns a pack sack, small children using theirs to pack a few pieces of bread and bannock to eat in the course of a journey. Guns are transported in moosehide gun cases provided with a carrying strap, but may also be carried across the shoulder by holding the forward end of the barrel. While hunting a man holds his gun in the crook of his elbow, supporting the trigger guard on his wrist so that the barrel points toward the ground. A sawed section of a tree trunk is sometimes impaled on an ax which is then swung over the shoulder. An additional section may be mounted on another ax and carried in the free hand. In general people do not pack more than thirty or forty pounds; whenever possible human packing is avoided.

492 Wooden pack saddles of native construction are used for horse transportation. Horses pack up to 250 pounds and with this load can travel up to forty miles a day. To cover this distance, however, requires an early start with camp made around noon. A horse, it was explained, cannot be worked all day without being injured.

Dog packs are canvas sacks, which are slung over the animal's back and secured under the neck and body. The sacks consist of two pockets, about two feet long and fifteen inches deep, sewn to fit on either side of the animal. Each pocket is fitted with three inch wide insets at the ends in order to allow expansion. An area, about seven inches wide, is left between the pockets to fit over the dog's back. Flaps, seven inches wide and fourteen inches long, are sewn at both ends of the center area. These serve to protect such contents as blankets, tarps, and tents which are packed so as to extend from one pocket into the other. An additional protection is provided by sewing a strip of canvas, about twenty-four inches long and twenty inches wide, on the open edge of one pocket. This extends across the top of the pack and is tucked into the other envelope, covering the contents of both. A strip of tanned skin, about two and a half inches wide, is sewn along the outside of each pocket, about two and a half inches from the open edge. These tanned skin strips are sewn only along their bottom length, the upper edge being perforated with six one inch holes spaced equal distances apart. Any piece of cordage is laced through these holes back and forth across the animal's back from one pocket to the other, thus securing the contents of the pack. Halfway down each end, on the outside of each envelope, a tanned skin tab about two inches wide and five inches long is sewn. These four tabs are perforated with one and a half inch holes. About a foot and a half of tanned skin line is tied to one tab at the front end of the pack and a similar length to the tab at the back end. The front line passes under the